

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00840 010538Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 EB-07 /093 W
-----018661 010542Z /16

R 010335Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2388
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SUVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0840

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV BP UK
SUBJ: PROBLEMS BETWEEN BRITISH AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

1. NEW UK HICOM MIDDLETON TOLD ME DIFFICULTIES HAVE ARISEN
OVER CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BRITISH AND SOLOMON
ISLANDERS, THUS CONFIRMING EARLIER REPORTS FROM GPNG AND
AUSTRALIAN HICOM. POINTS OF DIFFICULTY CONCERN CITIZENSHIP
AND LAND OWNERSHIP, WITH SOLOMON ISLANDERS WANTING TO TAKE
RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS FOREIGNERS. THIS FEELING
APPEARS TO BE ESPECIALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS GILBERTESE.

2. BRITS HAVE SENT CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER FROM LONDON WHO
WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HONIARA JUNE 29 TO HOLD FURTHER
TALKS. IF HE CAN SMOOTH OVER DIFFICULTIES,
CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER IN LONDON WILL BE
HELD, AND INDEPENDENCE CAN STILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY 1978.
MIDDLETON THOUGHT BRITS LIKELY TO BACK DOWN AND LET SOLOMON
ISLANDERS DO WHAT THEY WISH WITH CONSTITUTION, BUT
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CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER, WHO STOPPED HERE BRIEFLY, DISPUTED
WITH MIDDLETON ON THIS POINT, WE ARE TOLD.

3. BRITS ARE SENDING NEW DEPUTY GOVERNOR TO HONIARA WHO
WILL STAY ON AS HIGH COMMISSIONER AFTER INDEPENDENCE,
MIDDLETON SAID, THUS ENSURING RESIDENT BRIT REPRESENTATION.

4. EMBOFF WHO RECENTLY VISITED HONIARA FOUND OPPOSITION
PROTESTING VIGOROUSLY OVER LEVEL OF POST-INDEPENDENCE
AID SETTLEMENT REACHED BY BRITS AND GSI TEAM. OPPOSITION
WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED THAT GSI TEAM WAS DRAWN SOLELY
FROM MINISTRY AND THAT NO ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO
CONSULT WITH OPPOSITION (WHICH NUMBERS 28 COMPARED TO GOVERN-
MENT'S 9). THE GOVERNMENT MANEUVERED TO HAVE THE AID
SETTLEMENT TABLED WITHOUT A FORMAL VOTE, THE OPPOSITION
RESISTED AND THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE HOUSE WAS
ADJOURNED PREMATURELY WITHOUT RESOLVING THE FINANCIAL
AID OR CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE EARLY 1978 INDEPENDENCE DATE IS STILL
POSSIBLE, OBSTACLES REMAIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION, PROPERTY TITLES, CITIZENSHIP STATUS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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